

ST. PETER'S CHURCH
MIDDLETOWN, PA.

H.A.B.S. No. PA-36

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. PA-3

Reduced Copies & Measured Drawings

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Julian Millard, District Officer
2250 No. Third St., Harrisburg, Pa.

OLD ST. PETER'S CHURCH

United Lutheran
Middletown, Pa.

OWNER: St. Peter's Church.

DATE OF ERECTION: 1767; tower built in 1813.

ARCHITECT: Unknown.

BUILDER: George Lowman, Stone Mason, Philadelphia.

PRESENT CONDITION: Well maintained by the congregation. The floor was originally laid with 9 X 9 inch bricks, replaced by wood in 1830. In 1844, a second roof was put on and in 1850 the interior was remodeled. Originally there were galleries on the south, east and west sides and a high pulpit on the north side supported on a column 8 or 10 feet high and with a sounding-board above. The pulpit was reached by a narrow stair. There were entrances on the east and south side and two stairways to the galleries. The windows were originally very small and in two stories. In 1850 each upper window was joined to the one below, making long narrow windows. There is evidence of changes having been made to the windows on the north side.

NUMBER OF STORIES: One story, with galleries.

MATERIALS OF CONSTRUCTION: Church walls are of rough red sandstone. The tower is of gray limestone trimmed with red sandstone, with wood superstructure.

ADDITIONAL DATA: The lot was purchased in 1764 from George Fisher, founder of Middletown, for 7S - 6D and an annual rental of one grain of wheat, as duly recorded in Lancaster County Court House. The privilege of collecting money and erecting a Church was granted by John Penn, Lieutenant-Governor of the State, in the same year.

The cornerstone was laid by Justice (Col.) James Burd. The Building Committee was George Frey, Frederick Zeppernick and Conrad Wolfley.

In 1835 a lecture room was built and an addition in 1861, both of which have since been removed.

In 1879 a new Church was built on another site. The old Church is now used only for occasional services, mainly funerals.

REFERENCE: Egle's History of Dauphin County.

Julian Milled
District Officer

Revised 1936, H.C.F.